

**REMARKS**

This Preliminary Amendment and substitute specification are submitted to improve the form of the claims and specification as filed and to improve the technical accuracy of the translation of the German application to which this US application claims priority. No new matter is presented.

It is respectfully requested that this Preliminary Amendment be entered in the above-referenced application.

If any further fees are required in connection with the filing of this Preliminary Amendment, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: Feb 9, 2004

By: M.J.H.  
Mark J. Henry  
Registration No. 36,162

1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 700  
Washington, D.C. 20005  
Telephone: (202) 434-1500  
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501